

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 12, 17, and 18 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please add claims 19 and 20.

Claim Listing:

1. (currently amended) A system for electronic supply chain management and collaborative planning, including
  - a plurality of hubs, remotely coupled to each other;
  - a set of information stored in a database coupled to each said hub, wherein said set of information is owned by business entities relatively proximate to each said hub;
  - a set of regional authorities controlling access to said set of information;
  - a computer program coupled to each said hub that distinguishes between simple tasks and complex tasks;
  - a server coupled to at least one of said hubs, wherein said server is dedicated to performing simple tasks; and

a server coupled to at least one of said hubs, wherein said server is dedicated to performing complex tasks.

2. (currently amended) A system as in claim 1, wherein at least one hub is designated as a said regional authority with respect to synchronizing said set of information stored at other said hubs.

3. (original) A system as in claim 2, wherein said set of information is synchronized by restricting which hub in said plurality of hubs can perform a write operation to the set of information.

4. (original) A system in claim 2, wherein said regional authority includes a token, wherein said token permits said regional authority to exercise control.

5. (original) A system as in claim 2, wherein the designation of said regional authority is determined by at least one of the following: (1) subnet location, (2), class of goods, (3) proximity to a valued client and (4) network locations as measured by geography or network location.

6. (original) A system as in claim 2, wherein the designation of said regional authority is responsive to which hub in said plurality of hubs is experiencing more business activity than other hubs in said plurality of hubs.

7. (original) A system as in claim 6, wherein said business activity is measured by at least one of the following: (1) number of transactions, (2) number of units being trading, and (3) monetary value of transactions.

8. (original) A system as in claim 1, wherein said information regards an electronic transaction performed by said hub or a business entity that conducts business using said hub.

9. (currently amended) A method for processing transactions at a hub, including steps of

receiving [[a]] messages from a user

parsing said messages and determining the relative complexity of tasks associated with said messages;

separating messages that require processing from those messages that do not require processing;

sending a ~~moderate-to-high-complexity task~~ message requiring processing to a heavyweight server, wherein said ~~moderate-to-high-complexity task~~ message requiring processing is processed and sent to a user; and

sending ~~one or more simple tasks~~ a message not requiring processing to a lightweight server, wherein said ~~simple tasks are~~ message not requiring processing is ~~processed and~~ sent to a user.

10. (currently amended) A method as in claim 9, including steps of receiving and processing a set of information from said user regarding said ~~moderate to complex tasks~~ a message requiring processing at said heavyweight server.

11. (original) A method as in claim 9, wherein said step of processing includes performing a series of calculations and storing a result in a database.

12. (cancelled)

13. (original) A method as in claim 12, wherein said step of processing includes storing a record of said information in a database.

14. (currently amended) A memory storing information including instructions, the instructions executable by a processing, the instructions including receiving a message from a user;

parsing said message and determining the relative complexity of tasks associated with said message;

separating messages that require processing from those messages that do not require processing;

sending a ~~moderate to high complexity task~~ message requiring processing to a heavyweight server, wherein said ~~moderate to high complexity task~~ message requiring processing is processed and sent to a user; and

sending ~~one or more simple tasks~~ a message not requiring processing to a lightweight server, wherein said ~~simple tasks are~~ message not requiring processing is processed and sent to a user.

15. (currently amended) A memory as in claim 14, including instructions for receiving and processing a set of information from said user regarding ~~said moderate to complex tasks~~ a message requiring processing at said heavyweight server.

16. (original) A memory as in claim 14 wherein said instruction for processing includes performing a series of calculations and storing a result in a database.

17. (cancelled)

18. (cancelled)

19. (new) A system for electronic supply chain management and collaborative planning, including  
a plurality of hubs, remotely coupled to each other;  
a set of regional authorities controlling access to a set of information divided into a set of subsets of information as determined by said regional authorities, whereby each of said subsets of information is stored in a database coupled to each said hub;

a set of business entities, whereby each said subset of information is owned by a business entity relatively proximate to each said hub.

a computer program coupled to each said hub that distinguishes between simple tasks and complex tasks;

a server coupled to at least one of said hubs, wherein said server is

dedicated to performing simple tasks; and

a server coupled to at least one of said hubs, wherein said server is dedicated to performing complex tasks.

20. (new) A system for electronic supply chain management and collaborative planning, including

a plurality of remotely coupled hubs, each of said hubs each including a database;

a set of regional authorities for controlling access to a set of information, said set of regional authorities dividing access control of said set of information among said set of designated regional authorities;

a division of said set of information between said hubs stored in each said hub's database;

a communication exchange between a first regional authority and a second regional authority, wherein said first regional authority requests instructions for obtaining data under the access control of the second regional authority.